

Read 2 Feb 1706.

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A BILL for the better Regulating the Practice of Surgery in and about the City of London and Westminster, and the better Providing Her Majesties Fleet and Army with Skilful and Able Surgeons.



Whereas it is found by Experience, That many Mischiefs and Inconveniencies do daily happen from the Practice of Ignorant and Unskilful Persons in the Science or Faculty of Surgery, who for want of sufficient Knowledge in their Profession, do daily Endanger the Lives and Limbs of Your Majesties good Subjects; And for Avoiding of all which Mischiefs and Inconveniencies, and for the better Supply of Your Majesties Royal Navy and Armies for the future, with Able and Skilful Surgeons, May it Please Your Majesty, That it may be Enacted; And be it Enacted by the Queens most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament Assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the Day of next ensuing, no Person or Persons whatsoever shall or may Practise in any Part of Surgery within the City of London, nor within Miles distant from the same, unless such Person or Persons shall first have passed an Examination at Barbers and Surgeons Hall, within the said City of London, by Examiners accustomedly appointed by the said Company, or by of them (whereof One of the Governors a Surgeon for the time being to be One) and without having first obtained a Diploma from the said Company, under their Common Seal, Certifying, That such Person or Persons have or hath passed such Examination, according to the Usage and Custom of the said Company; And that he or they is or are well Skilled and Learned in the Art or Faculty of Surgery.

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And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every Person and Persons who shall after the said Day of next, have passed such Examination, and obtained such a Diploma, as aforesaid, is and are hereby made Capable, and shall be adjudged and deemed to be duly Qualified to Practise in the Art or Faculty of Surgery.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case any Person or Persons shall at any time after the said Day of Practise in any part of Surgery ( Drawing of Teeth excepted ) within the said City of London, or within Miles of the same, without having passed such Examination, and obtained such Diploma, as aforesaid: Then every such Person and Persons so Practising, shall for every such Offence, forfeit and pay the Sum of

One thereof to the Queen our Sovereign Lady and her Successors, and the other thereof to any Person or Persons that shall or will sue for the same, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint or Information in any of her Majesties Courts of Record at Westminster, wherein no Essoign, Protection, Privilege or Wager of Law shall be admitted or allowed in the same, nor any more than one Imparlance.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Examiners shall not refuse to Examine any Person or Persons, who shall at Barbers and Surgeons Hall, at usual and proper times, desire to be Examined in the Science or Faculty of Surgery, in order to obtain such Diploma, as aforesaid.

And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be Lawful to and for any Nobleman or Peer of this Realm, to Retain, have, and keep in his House, as his Servant, any Person being a Surgeon, or Practising as such, who shall and may Use and Exercise the Art and Faculty of Surgery in his Masters House, upon any of his Masters Family only; Any thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the said Day of no Person or Persons shall be admitted into her Majesties Army in the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, or Town of Berwick upon Tweed, nor shall any Person or Persons be admitted on Board any of her Majesties Ships of War from any Port of England, to serve as Surgeon or Surgeons Mate, until he or they shall



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shall have been first Examined, and obtained a Certificate of his or their Ability, according to the Custom of the said Company ; And that every Person or Persons Offending therein, shall for every such Offence Forfeit and Pay the Sum of the one thereof to the Queens Majesty, her Heirs and Successors, and the other thereof to any Person or Persons that shall or will Inform or Sue for the same, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint or Information in any of her Majesties Courts of Record at Westminster, wherein no Privilege, Wager of Law, Essoign or Protection shall be admitted or allowed, or any more than one Imparlance.

Provided, That this Act, or any thing therein contained, shall not any ways Prejudice the Two Universities of this Realm, the College of Physicians of London, or any Powers or Privileges to them, or any, or either of them, of Right belonging ; Nor shall extend to hinder any Gentleman, or other Person, from Using Surgery without Fee or Reward.

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L O N D O N,

Printed by Charles Bill, and the Executrix of  
Thomas Newcomb, deceas'd ; Printers to the  
Queens most Excellent Majesty. 1705.



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